

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT 25X1

TOPIC Military Activity in the Eighth Gds Army Area

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 25 October 1954 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

1. On 24 September 1954, exercises including firing with tanks and light infantry weapons were conducted in Forst Zeitz. At 1300, 6 T-34s and 12 trucks carrying approximately 300 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia entered the forest, coming from the direction of Raba, that is from a northerly direction. Motor vehicle numbers C 7-67-78, C 7-97-14 and / 3-06-71 were identified. On 25 September, an exercise involving about 12 T-34s and 1,000 men was held. The troops followed the attacking tanks deployed in formation of three lines of skirmishers; they fired with submachine guns and temporarily dug themselves in. The exercise was repeated for several times.¹ At 1800, 22 trucks with about 500 men, including trucks B 5-17-08, B 5-17-09, E 9-40-04 and E 9-40-06 left the forest and proceeded toward Gera through Lessen.² 25X1
2. From 23 to 28 September, the Artillerie Kaserne in Zeitz (8542) was occupied by approximately 100 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, 50 percent of whom wore tank insignia. Only a few windows in two buildings of the EM quarters were lit at dusk. At 1000 on 29 September, T-34 tanks Nos 351, 353, 354, 381, 383, and 385 and truck / 6-23-28 occupied by about 20 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia entered the kaserne. The troops subsequently marched to the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) which quartered approximately 200 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery or motor vehicle insignia.¹ 25X1
3. Between 27 and 30 September, the Prinz Louis Ferdinand Kaserne in Saalfeld (8481) was occupied by about 400 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets, 200 soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets and 200 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets. On 29 September, about 8 M-13 rocket launchers were parked between the garages. Driver school trucks hauled coal to the installation. No observations indicating an imminent departure for fall exercises were made. Officers and EM said at an inn, that their units would not participate in the maneuver since they are stationed close to the border.³

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4. On 28 September, 500-liter drums were unloaded from 4 cars at the Mechterstaedt railroad station and hauled away on trucks. The following east-bound trains were dispatched from the Eisenach railroad station:
 At 0500 on 3 October: A train consisting of 3 boxcars with troops, 8 SS-type flatcars with 16 T-34 tanks including 7 flatcars with sideracks with 13 trucks.
 At 1700 on 5 October: A train with T-34s including 7 sedans, 5 trucks including 1 radio truck, 1 generator, 2 trailers, 1 field kitchen and about 30 soldiers.⁴
5. At 0600 on 30 September, a train of 55 boxcars with recruits went from Erfurt toward Gotha. The train returned empty in the direction of Weissenfels at 2300. At 0430 on 4 October, a train of 18 boxcars with troops, 1 kitchen car, 2 field kitchens, 1 flatcar with prefabricated barracks sections and other equipment and other flatcars with 5 radio trucks, 4 tank trucks, 8 trucks, 1 ambulance and sedan went from Erfurt toward Sangerhausen.⁵
- Comment. These observations indicate that elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div which remained in Zeitz, or other elements of the division which returned from Ohrdruf, conducted exercises in Forst Zeitz at regimental level.
- Comment. these were elements of the 308th Artv Brie from Gera which continuously practiced in Forst Zeitz. the 11th Gds Tank Div. Small details of the division, also with tanks, were repeatedly identified in Forst Zeitz during the summer months.
- Comment. The occupation appears unchanged. These observations in connection with paragraphs 1 and 2 again confirm the assumption by this office that no large-scale fall maneuvers at corps or army level were held by the Eighth Gds Army prior to late September.
- Comment. shipments of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. Another source reported that large shipments were not scheduled to depart from Kindel training grounds before 10 October.
- Comment. presumably a shipment of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

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